

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claims 17-32 are active in the present application. Claims 1-16 are canceled claims.

Claims 17-32 are new claims. Support for the new claims is found in the original claims.

No new matter is believed to have been added.

REMARKS

New Claims 17-32 are added. The new claims are based on the original claims submitted in this case rewritten for clarity and to address matters of form such as the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph of the Office Action of October 1, 2007.

The amendment to the claims obviates the rejections of record.

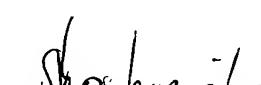
The Office objected to the claims citing to MPEP § 2172.01 as support that the previously presented claims were incomplete for omitting essential elements. With respect to Claim 1 (see new Claim 17) it appears that the Office is of the opinion that Claim 1 requires the inclusion of one or more heat exchangers. Applicants submit that this is not correct. Heat exchangers may be present in a preferred embodiment of the process of Claim 1 but the claimed process does not necessarily need to be carried out with any heat exchangers. Thus, new Claim 17 does not recite a heat exchanger. Functions recited in Claim 17 speak for themselves as the active steps recited in the claim, e.g., depressurizing and reacting.

With respect to the Office's objections to previously presented, now canceled Claims 11, 12, and 13, Applicants note that the new claims presently added are of different scope. Thus, according to MPEP § 706.03(k) the objection should be withdrawn.

Applicants submit that the new claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request the mailing of a Notice of Allowance acknowledging the patentability of the presently claimed subject matter.

Respectfully submitted,

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